

# NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

FOR OCTOBER 1987  
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 10

## Office of the State Climatologist

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### SYNOPSIS

Nevada was warmer than normal during October, and except for the northern 1/4 of the State, it was an unusually wet month. In fact, it was the wettest October of record at Desert Rock, and the second wettest at several locations, including Searchlight, Las Vegas Sunrise Manor, Ruth, and Smokey valley. The warmth was especially noted in the Extreme West, where Reno had the second warmest October since records began 100 years ago.

### TEMPERATURE

Departure from normal temperatures were as high as 4-6 degrees above normal in portions of the Northwestern Region and in the center of the State, with Reno WSFO at +6°, Glenbrook and Austin +5°, and Yerington, Winnemucca and Orovada, 4 1/2 degrees warmer than usual. Smallest departures were logged at Hawthorne and Desert NWR near Las Vegas, where averages were only between 1 and 2 degrees below normal.

Reno had the second warmest October since records began 100 years ago, with an average of 56.3°, or six degrees above normal. The 10th month of 1933 was the warmest with a balmy 59.6°. Added to August (+4.4°) and September (+4.8°) the three month August-October period has been the warmest on record.

It wasn't quite so warm in the remainder of the Silver State, with Ely, Elko and Las Vegas about three degrees above normal. Laughlin reached 107° on the 3rd, just one degree below the all-time October State high of 108° set on the 1st in 1980 at Sunrise Manor in Las Vegas. Nearer the bottom of the temperature scale Wildhorse Reservoir reached 5 degrees on the 16th, but not near the State record of -10 at Mtn. City on October 26, 1970.

Heating requirements were below normal Statewide, generally in the 60-80% range, with cooling needs (air conditioning) being well above normal in Southern Nevada.

### PRECIPITATION

With the exception of portions of the Northeast and Northwest, October was a wet month in Nevada, with 2-3 times normal occurring over much of the State. Several locations had over 3 1/2 times the normal precipitation, with Desert Rock recording it's wettest October since records began in 1977, and several other sites logging the second wettest October of record, such as Searchlight (records began, 1913), Las Vegas Sunrise Manor (1952), Smokey Valley (1952), and Ruth (1958). All five of these climate stations

also observed the greatest 24 hour precipitation of record for October.

The greatest amounts of precipitation observed this month were: 2.74" at Sunnyside, northwest of Pioche; 2.40" at Key Pittman WMA, west of Caliente; 2.31" at Topaz Lake 4N; 2.25" at Searchlight; and 2.24" at Ruth. Key Pittman also had the greatest 24 hour total, with 1.65" on the 29th.

A Death Valley National Monument Ranger reported extremely intense rainfall on October 12th, with 5.75" falling in 3-4 hours at Grapevine R.S. in the northern portion of the Monument, and just a few miles southwest of Beatty. Water and debris blocked roads in the area.

A few locations in the northern part of the State had less than 25% of normal for October, including Wells with only .16", or 22%, and Gerlach .06" and Fish Springs Ranch (north of Reno in the Honey Lake Valley) .07", both less than 20% of normal.

The wet conditions in the Extreme West in the parched Reno-Tahoe-Carson Valley Area, were a welcome relief, as the July-September period was one of the driest on record here. The combination of warm temperatures, lack of rainfall, and resultant high evaporation, added to last winter's drought, have made it very difficult for plant growth in non-irrigated locations, as well as putting a strain on water supplies in this region.

#### SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were below normal in the West, where Reno had 79% of the possible hours and a normal of 84%. In the South sun hours were well below normal as clouds and precipitation held sway more than usual, with only 70% of the possible and a normal of 86% at Las Vegas. Solar collectors and sun worshippers had a great month in the North, with 86% of the possible sunshine at Winnemucca and a normal of only 74%. In the East sun conditions were about normal with 75% at Ely.

With the exception of the North, where wind speed averages were near normal, October was a rather calm month in Nevada, with speeds averaging only 70-80% of normal. No damaging winds were reported, with 10,000 foot Slide Mtn. only reaching 50 mph in a gust on the 11th.

Evaporation was above normal in the Extreme West, where, for example, Reno had 4.46" of pan evaporation, about 1 inch above the usual amount. Elsewhere in the State, Boulder City had 8.28", or about 1" above normal, and Ruby Lake 4.49", a little over 1/2" over normal. At Silverpeak it was a different story, with the 5.06" reading being almost 2" below what can usually be expected during October.

NOTE: Welcome to three new weather observers--Lilly O'Toole at Reese River, Vickie Epsil at Smoke Creek, and Debbie Rosse, the observer at Wellington 3SE. Lilly has kept her own rain gage record since 1982, and Vickie for the past year.

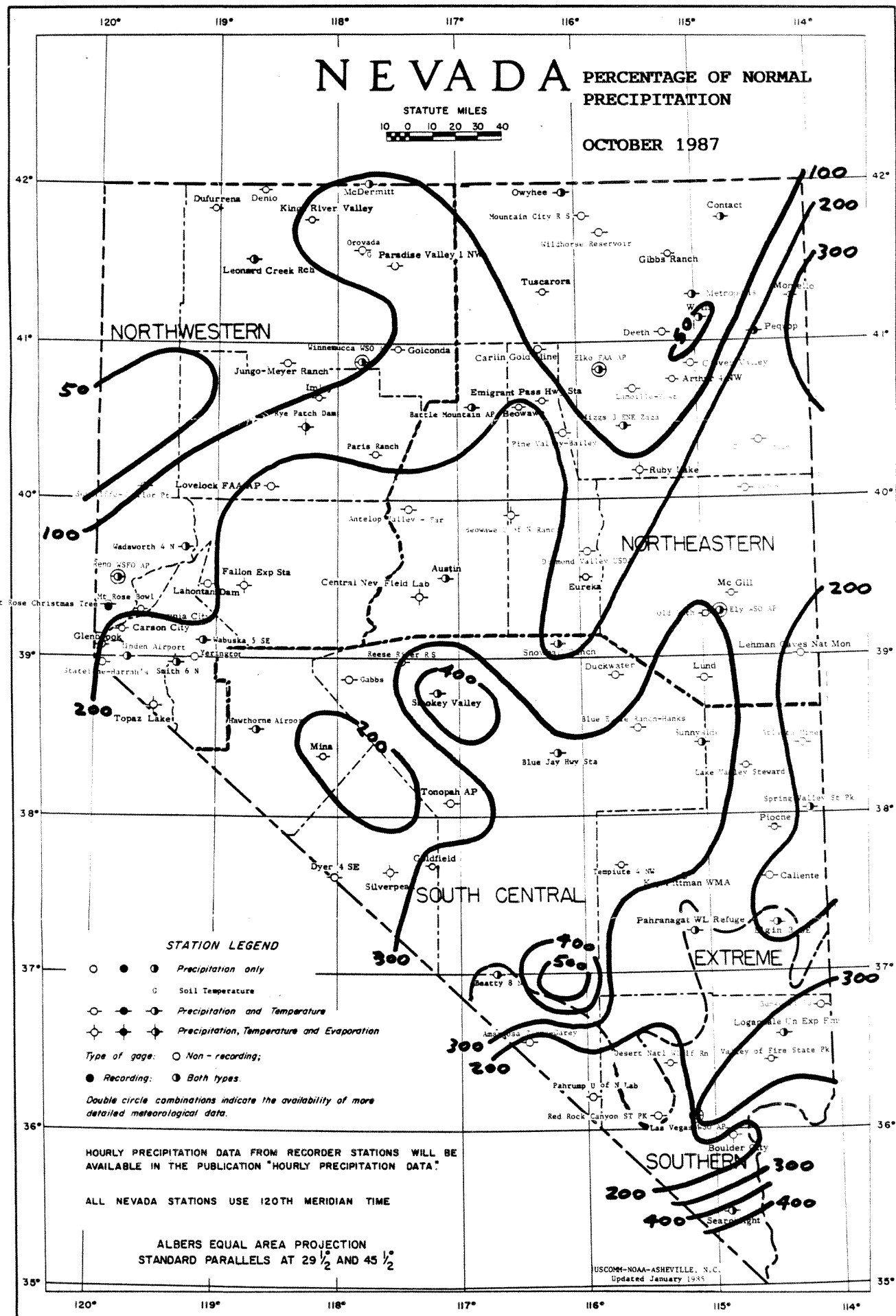
BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A FINE HOLIDAY SEASON

John W. James  
State Climatologist for Nevada

# SELECTED CLIMATIC DATA FOR OCTOBER 1987

LOCATION	ELEV	MEAN DAILY MAX	MEAN DAILY MIN	MEAN	DEPAR- TURE	HIGHEST	LOWEST	PRECIP	DEPAR- TURE	GREATEST 24 HR.
<u>NORTHWESTERN</u>										
Denio	4190	73.0	33.0	53.0	+3.5	87 3rd*	19 20th	.48	-.07	.37 30th
Fish Springs	3995	78.0	40.0	59.0	----	92 4th*	30 14th	.07	-----	.04 23rd
Glenbrook	6350	67.0	41.0	54.0	+5.0	79 6th*	34 14th	1.46	+.57	.83 29th
Lovelock	3975	73.0	38.0	55.5	+3.5	86 2nd*	28 14th	.98	+.65	.65 29th
Yerington	4375	73.0	40.0	56.5	+4.5	88 4th	33 25th	.79	+.53	.44 29th
<u>NORTHEASTERN</u>										
Beowawe	4700	72.0	32.0	52.0	+3.5	86 3rd*	24 21st*	1.23	+.76	.57 30th
Ruby Lake	6012	70.0	32.0	51.0	+3.0	83 3rd	21 20th	.85	+.02	.55 29th
Ruth	6860	65.0	25.0	45.0	+2.0	80 5th	14 20th	2.24	+1.55	1.01 13th
Wells	5650	68.0	28.0	48.0	+2.5	81 1st	16 19th	.16	-.56	.10 23rd
Wildhorse Res.	6226	67.0	24.0	45.5	----	81 4th	5 16th	.60	-----	.29 30th
<u>SO. CENTRAL</u>										
Dyer	4980	73.0	37.0	55.0	+3.0	86 6th*	27 21st	.89	+.55	.58 28th
Goldfield	5690	69.0	45.0	57.0	+4.0	82 6th*	37 26th	1.08	+.74	.50 12th
Key Pittman WMA	3950	78.0	47.0	62.5	----	93 5th*	40 31st	2.29	-----	1.65 29th
Lake V. Steward	6350	66.0	41.0	53.5	----	81 4th	34 30th*	2.15	-----	.73 31st
Smokey Valley	5625	71.0	37.0	54.0	+3.0	85 4th*	25 15th	1.64	+1.26	.54 29th
<u>SOUTHERN</u>										
Pahrump	2670	83.0	49.0	66.0	----	97 4th	41 17th	.59	-----	.28 23rd
Boulder City	2525	84.0	60.0	72.0	+3.0	97 6th*	49 30th	.66	+.25	.40 24th
Desert Rock	3301	80.0	52.0	66.0	+2.5	96 5th	44 30th	1.65	+1.44	.62 24th
Bunkerville	1550	87.0	49.0	68.0	----	102 5th	43 20th*	2.05	-----	.97 24th
Searchlight	3540	80.0	56.0	68.0	+2.0	94 5th	45 30th	2.25	+1.79	1.30 31st

\* Latest of more than one occurrence.



# NEVADA

DEPARTURE OF MEAN  
TEMPERATURE FROM NORMAL (F°)

OCTOBER 1987

STATUTE MILES  
10 0 10 20 30 40

